(b) The staff position are as under:

Scientific Cadre:	4796
Administrative/Finance Cadre:	5161
Other Cadres:	19040

(c) The year-wise number of varieties of wheat, rice, sugarcane, oilseeds, pulses and cotton developed and released during the last three years is annexed. The yield production rate of new varieties ranges from 15-25% higher than the current varieties. The cost of production with use of new varieties may not always be higher than the current varieties but in some cases a slight higher cost of production is expected because of higher cost of new seed. However, a little increase in the cost of new seed would be negligible compared to the increase in the production rate ranging from 15-25%.

Statement

Number of varieties developed during the last three years

SI.No.	Crop	2001	2002	2003
1.	Wheat	2	4	7
2.	Rice	9	2	2
3.	Sugarcane	5	Nil	Nil
4.	Oilseeds	9	7	12
5.	Pulses	7	3	7
6.	Cotton	2	Nil	2

Increasing area for agricultural land

†3190. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented any scheme for increasing the area for agricultural land in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the area of additional agricultural land included in the agricultural land of the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(c) the total agricultural land available in the country after Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the target in terms of area for providing additional agricultural land during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Agricultural land consists of five categories of lands, namely Land Under Miscellaneous Tree Crops and Groves, Culturable Waste Land, Fallow Lands Other Than Current Fallow, Current Fallow Land and Net Area Sown. As per available estimates, area under agricultural land was 184.875 million ha. in the year 1992-93 (beginning of Eighth Five Year Plan) and the same was 183.592 million ha. in the 1997-98 (beginning of Ninth Five Year Plan).

For management and development of rainfed/degraded lands, Government of India are implementing various programmes namely (i) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) (ii) Soil Conservation for Enhancing Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP and FPR), (iii) Reclamation of Alkali Soil (RAS), (iv) Watershed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA).(v) Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), (vi) Desert Development Programme, (vii) Integrated Waste-Land Development Programme (IWDP) etc. to bring these lands to better agricultural uses.

(d) The Working Group on Watershed Development, Rainfed Farming and Natural Resources Management for Tenth Five Year Plan, constituted by Planning Commission, has suggested a perspective plan for development of 15.00 million ha. of rainfed/degraded lands during Tenth Five Year Plan through Watershed Development Programmes.

Central Stock Scheme by NFL

3191. SHRI G.K. VASAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Central Stock Scheme extended by the National Fertilizers Ltd. to its dealers; and